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strike! He could not raise his arm against one so utterly helpless, so destitute, so completely in his power. He paused a moment, as if in mute deliberation; then raising the head of the magistrate, he propped him up against the bank, and hastily procuring water from an adjacent spring, dashed it over his face, and watched with eagerness and joy the signs of returning animation. He raised him in his arms, and placed him on his horse. His shoulder nobly lent its support to him he considered the author of his misfortunes—the ruiner of his house; and with a greatness of soul, that would have done honour to a more enlightened mind, he conducted him in safety to his home.

That day several officers (one of whom is my authority for the incident) called on the Colonel to inquire how he had got home, for they feared he might have met with some accident by the way, as on the preceding evening he had dined with them in Newry, and having become somewhat inebriated, though not to such a degree as to appear incapable of taking care of himself, had set out, undaunted by the darkness and loneliness of the road, and contrary to their wishes and entreaties, even without a companion. Finding him in bed, and covered with bruises, they asked him how they had been produced; but he could give no answer. He remembered wishing them good night, and mounting his horse, but nothing more. The servants were then questioned, and the tale was told how and by whose means he had been restored to his family. I need scarcely add, that the Colonel, having heard to whom he most probably owed his life, not only exerted himself to obtain his pardon, but took him under his own especial protection; and by showing him many marks of kindness, placed Timothy Ryan in comparative independence, and almost reconciled him to the existing order of things.

Such is the incident which appeared to me to be worthy of being more generally known, as it is, in truth, illustrative of the disposition of our countrymen, which, though too often disgraced by actions committed in the heat of the moment, (would that it were stained by none worse!) is frequently chequered by traits of generosity and forgiveness of injury.*

D. R.

THE HAUNTED CHAMBER.

Give an Irish peasant, after the labours of the day, a comfortable turf fire—place him around it with all the young and old of his acquaintances—let the tale of ghost and goblin go around—let him listen to the garrulity of old age, as it records the wondrous adventures that happened while the bloom of youth were yet upon its cheek, and he will deem himself happier than the sons of the noble and the wealthy of the land, for whom the proud mansion shines in splendid magnificence, while the sounds of merriment and rivalry re-echo through its halls.

No country ever abounded more in tales of the wonderful than Ireland; not a sod throughout its wide extent that is not associated with the recollection of some preternatural occurrence. Walk with a peasant through any part of the country, and this was the residence of a Ghost—that was the abode of the Fairies, here a horrid murder had been committed, which accounts for its being shunned by the weary traveller, and there some faithless damsel had broken the plighted vow, while even hence her white shad-dow-y form is seen to glide in the moonlight across the green sward, which had been witness to her perfidy. Superstition is natural to man, and it has existed in all age, it is strange, however, that all nations, though characterised each by a sort of superstition peculiar to themselves, yet agree in one point—namely, a firm belief in the existence of a mysterious connection between this and the world of spirits. Philosophy may endeavour to prove the fallacy of such opinions, and no doubt can do so to a considerable extent, but yet some regard must be paid to the general concurrence of mankind, and in deference to it 'tis only fair to imagine, that at one period of the world, the grave was not “the bourne from which no traveller returns,” but that the spirits of the dead have frequently been permitted to revisit the scene of their earthly pilgrimage. Ireland, however,

the land of fay and of fairy—of glen and of valley, peopled with strange and incorporeal beings, is more filled with wondrous stories that excite in us “thoughts beyond the reaching of our souls,” than any other country perhaps in the world. After all, it may not be unprofitable that such things should have been believed in; by means of them semblances of its early national character have been preserved, and a knowledge of the manners and customs of its aboriginal inhabitants, which would otherwise have been lost, has come down to us, lighted through the dark vista of successive generations, by the adventitious lustre of traditionary legends. The diffusion of Christianity now tends to weaken and almost to destroy our credulity, but nevertheless, it is pleasing occasionally to lift the veil of oblivion, which time has spread over the events of by-gone days, and view the state of the human mind before the light of revelation had spread its refulgence over the world.

In the western part of Ireland, stands a large and beautiful Castle, the residence of a very old and wealthy family. It is finely and romantically situated; all the beauties of nature seem to be clustered together in rich profusion around it; a large lake rolls its glossy waters in front, thickly planted around with trees of all kinds, which in some parts rearing their vast foliage to a considerable height, are reflected back in sombre relief from its clear and mirror-like surface. Behind it at some distance, a long range of mountains, in some parts thickly planted to their summits, rise in sublime grandeur till they almost lose themselves in the clouds; the Castle itself, which has been lately rebuilt, except one old ivy covered tower that has been allowed to remain as evidence of its antiquity, is large, spacious, and now embellished with all the beauties of modern architecture. From parts of it may be seen the broad sweep of the Atlantic, heaving along in majestic swell; a spacious piazza in front, supported by massy magnificent pillars of the Corinthian order, give it at first view a dark and imposing appearance. Before the Castle was rebuilt, a large fissure in the wall was very remarkable, the more so, as, according to the story, it could never be repaired. Frequent attempts had been made, but all proved ineffectual; the work went on very well by day, but after the interval of one night it resumed its former appearance. Parties had often sat up in order to discover the means by which such a strange counteraction of their labour was effected—they saw nothing, they heard nothing, and yet in the morning the same old crack was visible in the wall. The reason that is given for it is this:—Some centuries before there was one room in the Castle which was said to be haunted; strange and confused noises had been heard in it, till at last it was shut up and completely deserted, no one wishing to expose themselves to the horrors which had been endured by those who had already ventured to sleep in it; many daring persons had made the experiment, and the account given by them was truly wonderful. Some had the most frightful and appalling dreams of bloodshed and murder, which they saw perpetrated before them, while the bed on which they lay was floating in a boundless sea of blood, which was lit up by a blue sulphury light. Some imagined that they were taken to the top of a high precipitous cliff, beneath which lay the infernal regions, while by some unseen power, they were plunged into the fiery abyss below. Some thought that they were conveyed to a dismal vault lined round with skeletons, each holding a torch, which emitted a blue sulphurous light, while a taper of the same kind seemed to cast its horrid glare through the empty sockets of their eyes, and occasionally they sent forth an unearthly laugh, that re-echoed through the vault. Others thought that they had seen the devil stalking through the room. It was also remarked of all who had ever slept in the room, that they never survived long, but generally pined away without any apparent cause. The wonderful events connected with this room spread far and wide, and though it was now completely shut up, yet the domestics were frequently frightened by the horrid noises which proceeded from it. A belief existed in those days, that the devil had frequently selected particular places on earth, which he visited with his presence; such selection was generally supposed to indicate that the place thus pitched upon, had

* We trust our correspondent will excuse the liberty we have taken with his communication. We could not otherwise give it insertion.

at some period been the scene of some dreadful murder, or other crime, by which it has been polluted, and it was supposed that he could not be dispossessed of his thus strangely acquired tenement, or the place itself freed from its defilement, except by some mysterious mode of exorcism and subsequent purification, known only to the priests, who failed not to prove the high value which they set upon this secret knowledge, by the exorbitancy of their demand, whenever applied to to exert their sacerdotal influence. In accordance with this belief, a neighbouring monk was applied to, and when the terms, upon which he agreed to expel the evil spirits were finally settled, he took up his residence at the house; he went through a long and tedious ordeal of preparation, such as fasting, praying, and other sorts of penitential duties for some weeks. At length, when the necessary preliminaries were arranged, he took up his night's abode in the room; he brought with him his missal, a pair of wax candles, and a human skull—what use he made of the skull, could never be discovered. On the first night nothing remarkable happened; on the second the noise was long and more confused than usual; on the third night, which was to determine the event, the noises increased, a dense body of smoke issued from the room, and towards the approach of morning, a terrible crash, which shook the house to its foundation, was heard, and the priest came out exulting in his victory; the devil had sprung through the wall and had caused the fissure, which never could be filled up while one stone of the old wall remained. The priest was handsomely rewarded, the fame of the occurrence soon spread over the kingdom—long was the spot through which the devil had escaped pointed out to the spectators. The form of all, however, is now changed; never since have any noises been heard, and people sleep in it, forgetful that even once it had been the scene of so extraordinary an occurrence.

W. R.

CATECHISM OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.*

Those of our readers who took the second volume of the Journal, will remember that we commenced our articles on "Simple Science," by giving, in successive numbers, by way of question and answer, a very simple explanation of the first principles of several of the most interesting of the arts and sciences. In the little work before us there is a more complete following out of our plan than we were able to accomplish. It is the second part of a series of little works on elementary knowledge, which are to embrace the various arts and sciences; and which will, when completed, form a library, at a very cheap rate, of the first importance to the mechanic and artisan, as containing, within a very brief space, more information of a useful and practical kind than could have been collected a few years since from several costly and ponderous volumes.

Part II. the number before us, "contains Hydrostatics, Hydraulics, Pneumatics, and Optics. Under Hydrostatics is given an analysis of fluid pressure on the bottoms and sides of containing vessels; an account of Brahma's hydrostatic press; the effects of the pressure of a fluid on bodies immersed in it; the theory of specific gravity; the construction and use of the hydrometer; and an explanation of the principle upon which the strength of spirit is estimated.

"Under Hydraulics is considered the velocity with which water would issue under a given head pressure; the mode in which it is conducted from one place to another; how it is carried into the different elevations of a building, and made itself to regulate the necessary supply. Under this head, also, is given an account of some of the more remarkable hydraulic machinery, such as the water-wheel, Barker's mill, the cochlion or water-snail, and the hydraulic ram.

"Under Pneumatics is considered the decreasing density of the air as the height above the earth's surface increases; the rise of water after a piston; a proof given that no such agent exists in nature as suction; an account of the air-pump, condenser, and air-gun; an explanation of pumps

for raising water; of the stomach-pump; of the fire-engine; of syphons; and, lastly, of the construction and action of the barometer.

"Under the last head, Optics, there is given an explanation of plane, convex, and concave mirrors; of the effects of refraction on the true position of a point, as exemplified in the apparent position of a fish in the water, &c.; the oval form of the sun and full moon in the horizon; of lenses and their effects; of the eye; of spectacles and their uses; of the telescope, microscope, and mode of computing their power; and, lastly, an account of the construction and use of some of the more amusing optical instruments, such as the camera obscura, camera lucida, and the magic lantern."

From the first and last sections, "Hydrostatics" and "Optics," we take a specimen of the work. The descriptions appear to have been compiled with considerable care by a person qualified for the task. Indeed, there can be no doubt that the author is well acquainted with the theory of the subjects on which he writes—with the practical demonstration he seems not to be quite so conversant.

Having explained how it is that a fluid particle, situated within a mass of fluid, is pressed equally in every direction, he observes, in reply to the question, "Does the equal diffusion of fluid pressure lead to any other result particularly remarkable?"—

"It leads to this among others, that in communicating vessels a fluid will stand to the same level in all, however different these may be in calibre or bore. Thus, in the vessel ADB, consisting of the two branches AD and DB, a fluid will stand at the same level in A as in B, however much more fluid BD may contain than AD.

To see through this, conceive CD to be the lowest vertical stratum in the vessel. Then, since the pressure on a fluid particle is in proportion to the depth of that particle below the surface of the fluid, the pressure on opposite sides of the stratum CD will be in proportion to the altitudes of the fluid in the branches AD and DB; and hence when these altitudes are equal, the pressure on opposite sides of CD will be equal, and the fluid will be at rest.

"Q. This is hardly what could have been expected: the reasoning, however, is quite conclusive.

"A. Another still more remarkable fact, and one, too, arising out of the same principle of the equal diffusion of fluid pressure, is what is usually called the 'Hydrostatic Paradox'; viz. 'that any quantity of fluid, however small, may be made to balance any quantity, however great.'

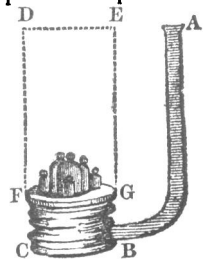
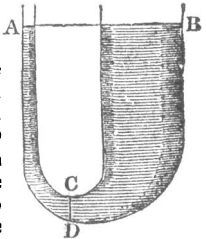
"Q. This is certainly a contradiction in terms.

"A. It is rigidly true, as you will perceive in the following manner:—Suppose that BD in the last figure is a vessel sufficiently capacious to contain the given great quantity; then, in order to make the given small quantity balance it, all that is necessary is to take a tube AD of a diameter so small that the given small quantity may stand at the same level with the given great quantity; in which case, of course, an equilibrium will take place between them.

"Q. Is this principle of a fluid standing at the same level in communicating vessels, rendered available in the mechanical arts?

"A. It is in many instances, which will be mentioned in their proper places. In the mean time, as illustrative of the principle, though of no great practical importance in itself, we may mention the hydrostatic bellows. This machine consists of two circular boards FG and CB, connected together by means of leather, as in the common bellows; a tube of metal is inserted between the boards, and thus communicates with the space which they enclose. If water be poured into the tube at A, it will, when accumulated in sufficient quantity, fill up the space between the boards, and finally exert

a very considerable upward pressure on the upper board FG, from the effort which it makes to stand to the same



* A Catechism of Natural Philosophy. Part II. By George Lees, A. M. Edinburgh; Oliver and Boyd; London; Simpkin and Marshall.